

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

English is a universal language which is used by most developing countries in the world. According to Crystal (1997), conversation without a common language between academicians from different nationalities, both in the virtual and real world, would prove impossible. In other side, English is a subject that is important to learn by students in all levels of education. In English learning process students should study four skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Everyone who comprehends English should master the four skills. Similarity Uma and Ponnambala (2001) states mastering language skills will determine the students' communicative competence in the target language. One of the ways to indicate students' ability in English is by analyzing their writing. Analyzing the students' writing works enables us to have better perception on students' understanding about students' skill particularly on writing. Then, Baker (1987) states that writing is a way of thinking. In analyzing students' work on writing is helping English teacher to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing. It can explain the circumstance of learning writing in English.

In writing, students need to acquire those first to make sure what they want to write. They have to write about what they think in their mind and state it on a paper by using the correct procedure. According to Richards & Renandya (2002), as cited in Fauziati (2015), writing is the most difficult skill to master for foreign language learners due to not only need to generate and organize ideas using an appropriate choice of vocabulary, sentence, and paragraph organization but also to turn such ideas into a readable text. Therefore, writing is one of skills which need to discuss. It can be arguably prove in English learning. Teacher will know the extent of student in writing from the writing task which is studied by students.

Writing is naturally challenging things to do especially for foreign language learner. Furthermore, Palmer (1994) claims that writing is recursive. It goes back and forth we plan a little, put words on paper, stop to plan when we want to say next, go back and change a sentence, or change our minds all together. From the four skills in English, writing is arguably the difficult one. Moreover, in school levels, each level has difficulty stage itself. The difficulties are not always come from teacher's method, sometime it can produce by the students. The writing for students is the hard one to understand but they should master it.

Writing is one of the important parts in studying English. This occurs in all students' level senior high school, junior high school, and even elementary school. Teachers in SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe are not an exception. They face the typical situation in teaching writing. That is why the teacher in SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe teaches English which also focused on students' writing. The teacher create the program beyond the scheduled lesson to make the students more fokus on learning writing. Teacher expect that the program can help the students increase their achievement. The program is held twice a weak and the participant is students in 8th grade after they finish their scheduled lesson.

The teacher mention that some of the students show less interest when the teacher asks them to write the material. The teacher realize that the students' hard to memorize vocabulary, hard to understand, and they do not know how the sentence structures are. In other point the material which teacher delivered is basic part of learning English. Some students can finish the task well, but some of them cannot do that. Teachers use variation in delivering material. It also cannot improve the students' achievement. The students are foreign learner but they should understand what English language is. Teacher should understand the students' difficulties.

For this reason, it is worth to research the students' point of view as about their experience during learning writing at school. The researcher takes the students' perception as the main point is because teacher usually know how to make innovation in learning, but that is not always work for every students. The

researcher needs to know the problem solve from another point of view. Students are part of teaching and learning which need to notice. Especially students in school have lack understanding in writing which seems like what the teacher describe above. In addition, previous researcher that do research about writing technique or writing method and a little that conduct the research about students' perception. The research is timely and worth to conduct. The research investigates the causes of the difficulties and what is the problem that makes students make some mistakes on their writing work.

This research uses descriptive qualitative research to collect the data. In this research, the researcher will conduct interview with the students of SMP N 1 Kalijambe for the data. After that, the researcher analyzes the data to infer a conclusion for the research. The title of the research is **“STUDENTS’ PERCEPTIONS IN ENGLISH WRITING LEARNING PROGRAM ON 8th GRADE AT SMP NEGERI 1 KALIJAMBE IN 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR”**

B. Limitation of the Study

This research focuses on students' perceptions in writing learning class. The difficulties faced by five students in eighth grade who have writing task in their daily learning. The location of the research is in SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe. The time is 2017/2018 academic year. The researcher is a new researcher who never had research experience before. There are probably some mistakes found in this research. Therefore, flow and improvement will be needed.

C. Problem Statement

1. How are the students' perceptions of writing learning class at eighth grade of SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe?
2. What are the difficulties (if there are any) faced in writing learning class by the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe?

D. Objectives of The Study

Based on the problem statements above the writer makes objective of the study as follows:

1. To describe the students' perceptions of writing learning class at the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe 2017/2018 academic year.
2. To identify the difficulties (if there are any) faced in writing learning class by eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kalijambe 2017/2018 academic year.

E. Benefits of the Study

From the objective of the study above, the research is expected to have significant benefits for:

1. Theoretically
 - a. The result of the study hopefully will deepen of the study on students' perception of writing class by using descriptive qualitative approach.
 - b. This research hopefully can be a resource of bibliography for the next related research.

2. Practically

This research hopefully will give contribution for other researchers who want to make the related research which they are interested in. It may contribute especially in analyze on the students' perception on writing class by using descriptive qualitative approach.

F. Research Paper Organization

First, the researcher formulates the research questions. After that the researcher makes the design of the study. In this research the researcher decides to use descriptive qualitative approach for her study.

Second, the researcher collects the data from five participants. The data are collected by interviewing those five students. After the data are collected, it transferred to be transcript and code.

Third, the researcher analyzes the data. The researcher makes analysis by using a descriptive technique in a qualitative way.

Next, the researcher creates the findings. Afterwards, the findings are validated through triangulation.

Finally, the researcher writes the display of the data.